

1                   REMARKS

2                   Claims 1-34 are pending.

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4                   Drawings

5                   Applicant acknowledges that the drawings were received and approved by  
6                   the examiner.

7

8                   Rejections of claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

9                   Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as  
10                  being unpatentable over *Otsuka et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,263,089). Although  
11                  Applicant disagrees with these rejections, independent claims 1, 6 and 11 have  
12                  each been canceled without prejudice in this amendment.

13                  Claims 4, 9, and 14 have each been rewritten in independent form including  
14                  all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.  
15                  Therefore, claims 4, 9, and 14 are believed to be allowable.

16                  Claims 2, 3, and 5 have each been amended to depend from claim 4, which  
17                  is believed to be allowable. Therefore, each of claims 2, 3 and 5 is believed to be  
18                  allowable, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

19                  Claims 7, 8, and 10 have each been amended to depend from claim 9, which  
20                  is believed to be allowable. Therefore, each of claims 7, 8, and 10 is believed to  
21                  be allowable, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

22                  Claims 12, 13, and 15 have each been amended to depend from claim 14,  
23                  which is believed to be allowable. Therefore, each of claims 12, 13, and 15 is  
24                  believed to be allowable, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

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1      **Rejections of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)**

2      Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable  
3      over *Fujimoto et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,864,779). Although Applicant disagrees  
4      with this rejection, claim 16 has been canceled without prejudice in this  
5      amendment.

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7      **Allowable Subject Matter**

8      Claims 4, 9, and 14 have each been rewritten in independent form including  
9      all of the limitations of the respective base claim and any intervening claims.

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11     **New Claims**

12     New claims 17 – 34 have been added. New claims 17 – 22 depend from  
13     claim 4, and are therefore believed to be allowable. New claims 23 – 28 depend  
14     from claim 9, and are therefore believed to be allowable. New claims 29 – 34  
15     depend from claim 14, and are therefore believed to be allowable. New claims 17  
16     – 34 add no new matter.

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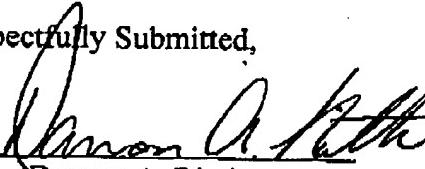
18     **Conclusion**

19     The pending claims have been placed in condition for allowance and are  
20     clearly patentable over the cited art and should therefore be allowed.

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22     Respectfully Submitted,

23     Date: 6/29/04

24     By:   
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